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DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW by NIMA/DOD 4/12/00

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Military Division, OCI

25X1A ATTENTION : [] Theater Forces Branch
THRU : Chief, RB/RG/CGS
FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT : Military Activity Search, Sino-Soviet Border Area
REFERENCE : Requirement No. C-C14-81,602 (Project No. C 1196-64)

25X1D 1. In partial fulfillment of Requirement No. C-C14-81,602 (C 1196-64), a study was made from [] covering the area located within approximately 300nm of the Sino-Soviet Border in Turkestan, in order to locate and describe current Soviet and Chinese military activity. Complete comparative analysis of the border was precluded as a number of the photographic passes "cut off" within 50-75nm of the border. In addition, much of the border in Turkestan is located high in the Pamir and Tien Shan Mountains where cloud conditions preclude examination of the entire area.

2. The following Soviet ground force installations and suspect military activity were observed in the following WAC areas:

WAC 239, 240, and 243.

No significant military installations were noted in this area. The valley of the Kara Irtish on WACs 239 and 240 was examined and no evidence of fortifications, border reinforcement or military activity could be found.

WAC 244

(a) Druzhiba Barracks and Training Area (45 15N-82 27E)

A probable regimental tank unit has been deployed on the Sino-Soviet Border in the Dzungarian Gate Valley. The installation is located on the rail terminus of the proposed Soviet-Chinese rail line. The rail facilities include multiple sidings, spurs and a turning wye which appear capable of handling a volume of terminal traffic.

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The rail construction ends a short distance inside Chinese territory. The main installation consists of approximately 30 administrative and barracks buildings and numerous support and general storage buildings located parallel to the east side of the rail and approximately 3.5nm north of the border. A grouping of possible barracks is located 0.5nm east of the main installation. Comparative analysis of [redacted]

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[redacted]; indicates that nearly half of these buildings have been removed, leaving only their foundations.

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A training area and probable field maintenance/vehicle storage area was developed immediately west of the rail line and across from the main installation in the period between [redacted]. A lack of adequate photo coverage in the intervening period precludes

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Of note is the new security fencing and additional border patrol roads which were not observed on [redacted]

(b) Panfilov Probable Military Area (44 11N-80 00E).°

A small battalion sized probable military installation is located on the SW edge of Panfilov, approximately 15nm west of the Sino-Soviet border in the Ili Valley. The installation contains 14 administrative and barracks buildings, 4 probable vehicle maintenance and storage buildings, and approximately 10 general support buildings. A possible training area is located immediately south of the installation. Although the installation appears occupied and active, there is no apparent activity in the training area. A sod landing area is located one nm east of Panfilov. No aircraft have been observed.

(c) Sary-Ozek Military Area (44 22N-77 58E)

A probable regimental installation is located approximately 100nm west of the Sino-Soviet border on the NW edge of Sary-Ozek. The installation contains 35 barracks, approximately 50 administrative and support buildings, a vehicle maintenance and storage facility with 3 sheds and 50 unidentified vehicles, and a POL storage area. The training facilities include a driver/crew training course and a probable maneuver area containing trenches and trackage.

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(d) Late photography indicates no apparent fencing or fortification of the border in either the Ili or O'min Ho Valleys.

(e) Rail construction has taken place in the area south of Lake Sasykkol as a branch or spur line leading south from the Druzhba line at 46 30N-80 30E. The construction is at an early stage and no definite connection with border activity can be made at this time.

WAC 329

(a) Alma Ata Complex and Training Area (43 16N-76 55E)

Three military barracks and administrative areas are located in the Alma Ata urban area and all appear to be occupied and active. However, the only active training appears to be centered at the Alma Ata Training Area north (43 31N-71 49E). This training area contains permanent billeting facilities in probable battalion size and probable permanent vehicle maintenance facilities. The training area contains a probable flat trajectory range, a small arms range, and random driver training activity. The Alma Ata military complex appears to serve a support function rather than line status. The presence of 12 "COOT" aircraft at Alma Ata airfield [redacted] and the existence of a possible drop zone training area at Alma Ata/Zakirovskiy airfield (7nm north of Alma Ata) indicates that an airborne unit may be located in the area.

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(b) Sharyn Area Probable Airfield U/C (43 38N-79 29E)

An 8,200 x 500 feet NE/SW, graded-earth, probable airfield is being developed 7nm SE of Sharyn (43 47N-79 23E), 35nm SW of Panfilov and 50nm west of the Sino-Soviet Border. The probable airfield consists of a runway and a parallel taxiway with two connecting links. It appears to be in an early stage of construction. [redacted] shows no airfield activity at this area. Data taken from [redacted]

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WAC 328

(a) Tashkent Urban Complex (41 18N-69 16E)

The Tashkent urban complex contains the headquarters and main support elements of the Turkestan Military District. All of the referenced military installations appear active and occupied to capacity. There is no identifiable training activity directly associated with the Tashkent urban complex. The lack of identifiable ground force combat-type training areas precludes an assessment of possible build-up in this complex.

(b) Chirchik Military Complex (41 30N-69 35E)

An extensive military complex and training area is located on the NW edge of Chirchik, 17nm NE of Tashkent. The complex contains a probable mechanized division installation and a second smaller possible division-sized administrative and billeting area. In addition, an aircraft maintenance and repair facility, an associated airfield, and a logistics support installation are located within the complex.

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The probable mechanized division installation contains separate wheeled and tracked vehicle maintenance and storage facilities with a total of 44 tank/assault guns and 11 trucks identifiable. The installation is integrally related to wheeled vehicle driver/crew training courses and tank/assault gun firing ranges. This installation has been referenced as the Headquarters of the 376th Motorized Rifle Division.

The second, smaller installation is connected to the training facilities by a tunnel under the Chirchik Canal for heavy vehicle traffic. A probable foot bridge for personnel also crosses the canal. The installation contains a large casern-type wheeled vehicle maintenance and storage facility and a smaller wheeled vehicle storage area. A large open storage area with a shed-type building along one edge appears to serve as a possible gun park. Trackage links the vehicle storage areas with additional motor pool areas further east near a second bridge. The majority of the vehicles found in this area appear to be standard military cargo trucks. The training activity associated with this installation appears to be concentrated on two flat trajectory firing ranges and a tracked vehicle driver/crew training course near the airfield. The possibility of airborne training is suggested by probable light mechanized activity, a possible DZ, and the identification of one CUB and three probable CAMP aircraft on the airstrip which appears devoted to tactical fighter aircraft. However, no jump tower or transport mock-up have been identified to date.

The entire complex appears active and comparative photography reflects an increase in activity over the past two years.

(c) Osh Barracks and Training Area (40 31N-72 45E)

A probable mechanized regimental installation and training area is located 2.5nm west of the Osh urban complex. The road served installation contains administrative, support, and billeting facilities. The installation is well integrated with the surrounding agricultural activity and its association with a military function can be determined only by its relation to training activity located approximately 5nm west. The training activity consists of an active wheeled and tracked vehicle driver training courses and a tank/assault gun firing range. The vehicle maintenance and storage facilities located between the installation and the training activity, include a probable ammunition storage area, limited billeting, and open storage of approximately 60 unidentified vehicles. All of the identifiable training activity has developed since [REDACTED]

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(d) Fergana Complex (40 23N-71 47E)

A possible ground force related military installation has been identified in association with the Fergana airfield. The installation appears to be of division size but, as no identifiable ground force training is directly associated with it, no positive ground force evaluation can be made.

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However, a probable airborne maneuver area is located near the Fergana complex. It contains a tracked vehicle driver/crew training course, a probable tank/assault gun range, and a probable drop zone marker. The lack of interpretable comparative photography precludes an evaluation of changes in the level of activity.

(e) Dzhambul Training Area (42 53N-7123E)

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A possible battalion-size, mechanized training area is located 1.5nm east of Dzhambul. [] indicates other training activity centered in the area of a SAM missile site (42 53N-71 26E). This earlier training appears to be wheeled vehicle activity related to the missile facility.

The possible battalion-size training area contains probable flat trajectory firing range scaring and a bivouac area. The activity level indicates that this area is probably devoted to summer training only. The dispersion of the track activity outside the training area precludes the identification of the related support installation within the Dzhambul urban complex.

3. Chinese military activity within 300nm of the Sino-Soviet Border in Sinkang Province was observed at Kashgar, Yeh-Cheng, Kuldja (I-ning), Ko-la-ma-i (Karamai), Urumchi, and Khotan. The installation size and the level of activity is as follows:

WAC 243

(a) Ko-la-ma-i (Karamai) Complex (45 16N-84 42E)

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Ko-la-ma-i is located in western China approximately 90nm east of the Sino-Soviet border, and 95nm east of the newly identified Soviet tank regiment at Druzhba in the Dzungarian Gate. The town of Ko-la-ma-i contains a large motor pool area on the SE edge. Ten long vehicle sheds are located throughout the motor pool area and numerous unidentified vehicles were observed []. A probable military barracks and HQ area is located in the northern sector of town. Approximately 30 barracks and numerous administration-support type buildings are located within the area. The occupancy of this installation appears to approach 100%. An airfield with a 4,000 x 130 feet, NW/SE, prepared surface runway is located one nm south of the town. No aircraft were discernable on the photography. []

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WAC 329

(a) Kuldja (I-ning) Complex (43 55N-81 14E)

Kuldja is located in western China approximately 38nm east of the Sino-Soviet border. A probable military barracks area is located on the NW edge of Kuldja.

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The installation contains approximately 60 barracks-type buildings and 16 large probable storage buildings. A second possible military area is located 2nm SSW of Kuldja. This area contains approximately 56 barracks-type buildings, 8 administration/support buildings, and one large unidentified building. A water tower is located within the area. An airfield with a 4,200 x 300 feet, NE/SW, graded earth runway is located 1.5nm north of Kuldja. The small scale and poor resolution of currently available photography preclude a detailed analysis of military activity at this installation.

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WAC 330

(a) Urumchi (Ti-Hua) Complex (43 48N-87 35E)

Urumchi is located approximately 300nm SE of the Sino-Soviet border. There are three large probable military barracks areas at Urumchi.

Area "A" is located 2.5nm NW of Urumchi. This area is partially walled and contains approximately 40 barracks and numerous administration/support type buildings, a POL storage area, and a large motor pool with approximately 250 vehicles on

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Area "B" is located 8nm NW of Urumchi. This area contains approximately 250 barracks-type buildings and numerous administration and support buildings.

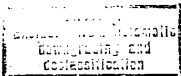
Area "C" is located 8nm NW of Urumchi. This area contains approximately 160 barracks-type buildings, numerous administration/support buildings, and approximately 200 unidentified vehicles. A probable vehicle driver training course is located immediately west of the installation.

All three of the above mentioned areas have a cluttered appearance and no major military training areas are discernable other than the probable driver training area. Although the three areas described above are the apparent major military installations there are numerous smaller areas of barracks-type buildings, motor pools (1,000 vehicles estimated in the area), and extensive trenching and firing positions located throughout the city. The presence of intensive agriculture throughout the area, the evidence of extensive mining in the immediate vicinity of Urumchi, and the apparent high occupancy of buildings seems to indicate that the majority of the personnel are probably engaged in civil activities while still maintaining a "ready" military posture. The large number of vehicles observed in the complex would provide a good degree of mobility for personnel quartered within the Urumchi complex.

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(b) Other Activity of Interest: the railroad bed is still under construction from Urumchi to Wu-su; both airfields at Urumchi are active only small transport aircraft have been observed at these fields; and a noticable increase in population and cultural activity is evident throughout the area when comparative photographic coverage is studied.

WAC 335

(a) Kashgar (39 27N-75 59E)

Kasagar is located 80nm SSE of the Sino-Soviet border. There are three large, probably military, barracks areas within 4.0nm of Kashgar.

Area "A" is located 4.0nm SE of Kashgar at 39 24N-76 03E (immediately NE of Su-lo). This installation consists of three dispersed areas containing a total of approximately 75 barracks, 85 administration/support, and three probable parade grounds. The area is active and capacity probably approaches 100%.

Area "B" is a dispersed complex located immediately west of Kashgar. This area contains approximately 80 barracks and numerous administration/support-type bldgs. The level of activity indicates that the capacity probably approaches 100%.

Area "C" is located 3.0nm north of Kashgar and immediately south of Zang Karavul airfield at 39 31N-75 59E. This installation contains approximately 30 barracks and 20 administration/support type bldgs. The amount of activity observed indicates that the installation is approaching 100% occupancy.

These three areas at Kashgar are similar to military installations found in other areas of China; however, the lack of large scale photography precludes a detailed functional identification of the military activity in this complex.

(b) Yeh-Cheng (37 50N-77 25E)

Yeh-Cheng is located 125nm east of the Sino-Soviet border. Three probable military areas are located east of Yeh-Cheng.

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Area "A", 3.5nm east of Yeh-Cheng, was still under construction at the time of photography [REDACTED] A total of 25 barracks, 43 administration/support-type bldgs, and 30 trucks were observed at this installation.

Area "B", 2nm east of Yeh-Cheng, contains one storage bldg, two bldgs. under construction, 13 probable tents, numerous piles of unidentified material, and 13 probable trucks.

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Area "C", 1.5nm east of Yeh-Cheng, is a secured area containing 25 barracks, 40 administration/support-type bldgs. (6 U/C), and a motor pool with 10 trucks.

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This installation has not been covered by photography suitable for analysis since [REDACTED].

Generally the areas described above appear to be active and having a capacity approaching 100%. The lack of well defined military training areas indicates that the personnel billeted in these areas are probably "agricultural" and "maintenance" troops. New construction is evident to some extent in all of the complexes listed. This new construction activity is indicative of continued expansion in both billeting and support facilities.

(c) Khotan (Ho-Tien) Airfield U/C (37 05N-79 55)

A new airfield is under construction approximately 4.5nm SSW of Khotan. This airfield is being constructed at the site of the former Ho-Tien Airfield. It is located approximately 250nm ESE of the Sino-Soviet border and 85nm north of the China-India border. Facilities include an 8,000 x 150 feet, NW/SE, possible concrete runway under construction (30% complete), 10 support buildings, a probable water tower, and numerous stacks of unidentified construction material. [REDACTED]

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4. An automated briefing describing the major Soviet and Chinese ground force installations along the Sino-Soviet border is nearing completion. This material will be available for presentation in Tele-Prompter equipped briefing rooms in the near future.

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5. The photographic analysis for this project was performed by [REDACTED] CIA/PID/GMB (NPIC), who may be contacted on [REDACTED] for any additional information.

6. This memo is in partial response to referenced requirement.

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